



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5406

LCO No. 1527

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Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICATION TECHNICIAN PILOT PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section and section 2 of this act, (1) "medication technician" means an
3 individual who (A) is currently listed in good standing on the state of
4 Connecticut nurse's aide registry and has maintained said registration
5 for a minimum period of two years, (B) has been recommended by the
6 director of nurses at the facility at which the nurse aide is employed,
7 (C) has a high school degree or equivalent, (D) has taken and passed a
8 literacy and reading comprehension screening process prescribed by
9 the Department of Public Health, and (E) has successfully completed a
10 medication technician training program approved by the department,
11 and (2) "facilities" means chronic and convalescent nursing homes and
12 rest homes with nursing supervision, licensed pursuant to chapter
13 368v of the general statutes.

14 (b) The Commissioner of Public Health shall establish a pilot
15 program to implement and evaluate the use of medication technicians
16 in chronic and convalescent nursing homes and rest homes with

17 nursing supervision, licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general
18 statutes. The pilot program shall commence on or before April 1, 2005,
19 and shall terminate not later than September 30, 2007.

20 (c) The commissioner shall designate no more than thirty facilities to
21 conduct the pilot program. Facilities may apply for designation on
22 forms prescribed by the department. In reviewing applications for
23 participation, the commissioner shall consider factors including, but
24 not necessarily limited to, facility size, geographic location, patient care
25 history and staffing patterns in accordance with state and federal
26 requirements.

27 (d) Designated facilities may permit medication technicians and
28 individuals completing the clinical component of an-approved
29 medication technician training program to administer oral and topical
30 nonprescription drugs and legend drugs, except for controlled
31 substances as defined in section 21a-240 of the general statutes, as
32 amended, under the direct supervision of a registered nurse and in
33 accordance with a standard written protocol developed by the
34 department. Medication technicians and individuals enrolled in a
35 medication technician training program shall only administer such
36 medications in accordance with this subsection.

37 (e) The department shall approve medication technician training
38 programs that include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following
39 components: (1) Seventy-five hours of classroom instruction, which
40 shall include a minimum of forty-five hours of pharmacology training;
41 (2) supervised practical experience of eighty clinical hours; (3) a final
42 written examination; and (4) a final practical examination administered
43 by a registered nurse. No approved training program shall charge
44 individuals for participation in the program without the prior written
45 approval of the department.

46 (f) Medication technicians shall not be counted when calculating the
47 minimum required staffing levels and staff-to-resident ratios required
48 by the department.

49 (g) The facility participating in the pilot program shall provide for a
50 one-to-one ratio of registered nurses to medication technicians and
51 individuals completing the clinical component of a medication
52 technician training program.

53 (h) No provision of chapter 378 of the general statutes shall be
54 construed as prohibiting the administration of oral or topical
55 medications by medication technicians, to persons who reside in a
56 nursing home, as defined in subsection (c) of section 19a-490 of the
57 general statutes, when such medication is administered under the
58 direct supervision of a registered nurse, pursuant to the written order
59 of a physician or a physician assistant licensed under chapter 370 of
60 the general statutes, a dentist licensed under chapter 379 of the general
61 statutes, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under
62 chapter 378 of the general statutes; nor shall it be construed as
63 prohibiting registered nurse's aides who are enrolled in an approved
64 medication technician training program from performing such work as
65 is incidental to their course of study.

66 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) (a) All facilities designated
67 to participate in the pilot program established pursuant to section 1 of
68 this act shall agree to comply with the medication technician pilot
69 program protocol as developed by the Department of Public Health
70 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 1 of this act, and to submit
71 periodic reports to the department, in accordance with such protocol.

72 (b) (1) The reports shall include, but not necessarily be limited to,
73 listing of individuals participating in a medication technician training
74 program, listing of individuals who have successfully completed a
75 medication technician training program and are being utilized as
76 medication technicians and listing of all medication errors made by
77 medication technicians or individuals enrolled in an approved
78 medication technician training program.

79 (2) The department shall collect listings of medication errors from
80 not less than ten chronic and convalescent nursing homes or rest

81 homes with nursing supervision licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of
82 the general statutes that are not participating in the medication
83 technician pilot program.

84 (c) Each facility shall provide detailed reports to the department.
85 The detailed reports shall include all information required by
86 subsection (b) of this section, plus an analysis of time spent with
87 patients by registered nurses before and after the pilot program began,
88 analysis of all medication errors listed pursuant to subdivision (1) of
89 subsection (b) of this section individuals enrolled in an approved
90 medication technician program, and such other information as the
91 Commissioner of Public Health may require.

92 (d) Facilities shall not allow a medication technician to administer
93 medications if a pattern of medication errors is noted or if the
94 medication technician is found to have diverted any patient
95 medication.

96 (e) Approval to participate in the pilot program may be revoked at
97 any time for failure to comply with the provisions of this section and
98 section 1 of this act or the medication technician pilot program
99 protocol.

100 (f) The Commissioner of Public Health shall report, in accordance
101 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
102 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
103 relating to public health not later than January 1, 2006, and annually
104 thereafter until the pilot program terminates, concerning the results of
105 such pilot program. The report shall include, but not be limited to,
106 recommendations regarding state certification and or registration of
107 medication technicians.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a medication technician pilot program in no more than thirty facilities within the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]